

SENATE BILL 639
By Person

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-104,
relative to jurisdiction of the courts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-104, is amended by adding the
following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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(1) When the juvenile court has jurisdiction over a dependency and neglect proceeding involving a particular child and the circuit or chancery court has jurisdiction over a divorce, child custody or adoption proceeding involving the same child, the judges of each court shall have the authority to confer with each other concerning the cases pending before them, and may, by agreement between them, consolidate all matters for trial before one of the judges. If the judges agree to consolidate the cases, then the judge relinquishing jurisdiction shall enter an order transferring the matter and directing the clerk of that court to forward all pleadings and orders to the clerk of the court which will hear the entire matter.

(2) If the consolidated cases are tried before the juvenile court judge, then the process for appeal will be as set forth in § 37-1-159 for dependency and neglect cases. In the event that the matters are tried before the circuit or

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chancery court, the appeal will be pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-104(c), is amended by adding the following sentence:

The circuit court or chancery court judge and the juvenile court judge shall have the authority to confer with each other and, by agreement between them, transfer a termination of parental rights case from the court in which it is filed to the other court with concurrent jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

